

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Patent Office has maintained the anticipation or alternative obviousness rejection in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-082329 "Tsuchida." Applicants believe that this rejection is improper as discussed below in further detail.

At the outset, the "mixing ratio" apparently relied on by the Examiner in Tsuchida is directed to a weight ratio in contrast to the mole ratio as claimed. Further, Tsuchida relates to a ratio between a polymer having a sulfonic acid group and a polymer with the expression $(R1-X)_n$. In this regard, the Examiner seems to equate the polymer with the expression as described above in Tsuchida as including polyacrylamide. However, this does not appear to be a proper characterization of Tsuchida, and thus the mixing ratio of Tsuchida is different from the ratio of the first compound and second compound as claimed at least in view of same.

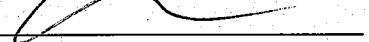
Even assuming that polyacrylamide does equate to the polymer with the expression as described above in Tsuchida (which Applicants do not concede), polyacrylamide is different from the second compound as claimed. For example, the carbonyl group of the claimed second compound is attached to a nitrogen atom and a hydrogen atom in contrast to the carbonyl group in polyacrylamide that is attached to an alkyl group. Moreover, dependent Claim 9 further defines the second compound as including, for example, N,N-dimethyl formamide. Contrary to the Patent Office position, this compound is also different from polyacrylamide, where again, the carbonyl group of this compound is attached to a nitrogen atom and a hydrogen atom. Therefore, Applicants believe that one skilled in the art would consider the Tsuchida reference distinguished from the claimed invention for at least these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation and alternative obviousness rejections be withdrawn, and further submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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